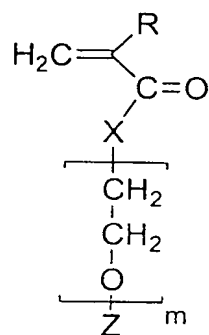


## Claims

1. Use of a crosslinked polymer composition which comprises at least one polymer in which the content of monomer units derived from nonionic hydrophilic acrylates or methacrylates makes up at least 30 mol%, wherein the nonionic hydrophilic acrylates or methacrylates correspond to the general formula



- wherein R = H or a methyl group, X = O or NH, m = 3 to 1,000 and Z = H or a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl radical,

as a water-absorbing component in concrete or sealing and absorption materials.

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2. Use according to claim 1, wherein m = 5 to 200.

3. Particulate water-absorbing or water-swellaable material, comprising a crosslinked polymer composition as defined in one of the preceding claims.

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4. Material according to claim 3 having a particle diameter of from 5 to 5,000 μm.

5. Water-swellaable sealing composition, comprising a matrix and a particulate material according to one of the preceding claims 3 or 4 distributed therein.

5 6. Sealing composition according to claim 5, wherein the matrix is formed by rubbers.

7. Sealing composition according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the rubber is vulcanized or crosslinked to form an  
10 elastomer or vulcanized rubber.

8. Sealing composition according to claim 7, wherein an open-pore structure having a density of from 0.01 to 2 g/cm<sup>3</sup> is present.